

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALGIER 00291 051153Z

67

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /074 W

----- 062708

R 050940Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3794

INFO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS PFOR AG MO SS

SUBJECT: SAHARA: AMGALA FOOTNOTE

1. FOREIGN JOURNALIST HERE TELLS US THAT GOM
HELICOPTERED GROUP OF FOREIGN JOURNALISTS TO AMGALA TO SEE
"BATTLEGROUND." ONE OF CORRESPONDENTS, MALCOM BROWNE OF
NEW YORK TIMES, IS EXPECTED TO REPORT ON BBC FEB 3 THAT
HE SAW LITTLE OR NO EVIDENCE OF MAJOR CLASH HAVING TAKEN
PLACE AT SPOT SHOWN TO JOURNALISTS BY GOM. BROWNE,
ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, IS IN POSITION TO MAKE INFORMED
JUDGMENT BASED ON HIS EXPERIENCE AS REPORTER IN VIETNAM.

2. UPON RETURN TO SMARA FROM AMGALA TOUR, JOURNALISTS
ARE REPORTED TO HAVE ASKED TO INTERVIEW ALGERIAN
PRISONERS CAPTURED FOLLOWING CLASH. GOM ONLY ABLE TO
PRODUCE 3 OR 4 AND SAID REMAINDER HAD BEEN FLOWN TO RABAT.

3. COMMENT: WAS AMGALA FOR REAL? BOTH SIDES
CERTAINLY SEEM TO THINK SO, BUT WAR OF WORDS WHICH
FOLLOWED THE SHOOTING, MAY HAVE BEEN FIERCEST PART OF
COMBAT. LYNE

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
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